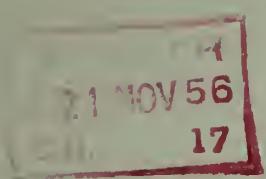


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LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955, which is furnished in accordance with Article 17, subsection 5, of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 17/55 of the Ministry of Health.

I am very glad to report that the incidence of acute infectious disease during the year was low, although the extremely low prevalence experienced in the previous year was not maintained. The number of deaths remained almost unchanged and there was a rise in the number of births.

I have to acknowledge assistance in the preparation of this Report and throughout the year by my colleagues, Mr. D.B.W. Dykes, Clerk to the Council; Mr. A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer; Mr. E.E. Jordan, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor; and Mr. K. Mills, Executive Officer.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the support which has been given me in the discharge of my duties.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

William Hogg

Medical Officer of Health.

14th November, 1956.

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LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.I.

CLERICAL STAFF

Miss A.O. Gale

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SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

Mr. E.E. Jordan, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

Mr. H.A. Lett, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Telephone:

Ledbury 391

Council Offices,

Southend,

Ledbury.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

| | | |
|---|-----|-------------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | 49,867 |
| Number of inhabited houses (31.12.55) | ... | 2,504 |
| Rateable Value | ... | £34,256 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | ... | £136.14.4d. |
| Registrar General's estimated mid-year population | ... | 8,680 |

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

| | | |
|--|-----|------|
| Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (Crude) | ... | 17.2 |
| Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population | ... | 19.4 |
| Stillbirth rate per 1000 total births (live and still) | ... | 19.7 |
| Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (crude) | ... | 10.1 |
| Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population | ... | 8.6 |
| Area Comparability Factor (Births) | ... | 1.13 |
| Area Comparability Factor (Deaths) | ... | 0.85 |

Deaths from Maternal Causes

| Heading No.30 | Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion | Deaths | Rate per 1000 total Births |
|---------------|------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| | | Nil | Nil |

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age

| | | |
|--|-----|------|
| All Infants per 1000 live births | ... | 20.1 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births | ... | 21.9 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births | ... | Nil |

The Ledbury Rural District forms the south eastern part of the County of Hereford, and can be regarded as a valley running in a north west - south east direction, with the Malvern Hills on the eastern border and the Marcle Hills on the west. The District is entirely agricultural in character.

Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population is 8680, which is a small reduction on the figure for the previous year (8710). This population was accommodated in 2504 dwellings in 22 parishes comprising the Rural District. The average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.46 and the average number of inhabited houses per acre is 0.05. The natural increase of population, that is the excess of live births over deaths, is 61.

During the month of September there is a temporary increase in the population when the hops are harvested. This increase in population is diminishing as a result of the introduction of machinery for hop picking.

Births

The total number of live births for the year is 149 (68 male and 81 female). The crude live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population is 17.2. The adjusted live birth rate is 19.4 per 1000 population. The live birth rate for the year 1955 for England and Wales is 15.0 per 1000 population. In the previous year there were 121 live births in the Rural District.

The number of illegitimate live births is 12 (4 male and 8 female). Illegitimate live births formed 8.1% of all live births. Based upon the estimated population, the illegitimate live birth rate is 1.38 per 1000 population.

Stillbirths

The number of stillbirths registered is 3, one less than in the previous year. The stillbirth rate per 1000 total births is 19.7 or 0.35 per 1000 estimated population.

Deaths

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the Rural District is 88 (48 male and 40 female), after deducting the deaths of non-residents occurring within the District, and adding the deaths of residents occurring outside the area. The crude death rate is 10.1 per 1000 of the estimated resident population. The total number of deaths during 1955 was almost identical with the number during 1954.

Using the comparability factor for the area of 0.85, the adjusted death rate is 8.6 per 1000 population. The death rate for the year for England and Wales is 11.7 per 1000 population.

Heart diseases (headings 18 and 20) accounted for 27 deaths (16 male and 11 female). The adjusted death rate from these causes is 2.64 per 1000 estimated population. In the previous year there were 23 deaths due to these causes.

Cancer of all sites this year caused 14 deaths (7 male and 7 female) whereas in 1954 cancer caused 10 deaths. The adjusted death rate for cancer of all sites for the Rural District for 1955 is 1.37 per 1000 estimated population.

Table of Causes of Death according to Sex and Mortality Rates

| List No. | Cause. | Male. | Fe-male. | Per-sons. | Corrected D.R. per 1000 Popln. |
|------------|--|-------|----------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 10. | Malignant Neoplasm, stomach. | 1 | - | 1 | 0.10 |
| 11. | Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus. | 2 | - | 2 | 0.19 |
| 12. | Malignant Neoplasm, breast. | - | 1 | 1 | 0.10 |
| 14. | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms. | 4 | 6 | 10 | 0.98 |
| 15. | Leukaemia, aleukaemia. | 1 | - | 1 | 0.10 |
| 16. | Diabetes. | - | 2 | 2 | 0.19 |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system. | 4 | 10 | 14 | 1.37 |
| 18. | Coronary disease, angina. | 7 | 5 | 12 | 1.18 |
| 20. | Other heart disease. | 9 | 6 | 15 | 1.47 |
| 21. | Other circulatory disease. | 7 | 1 | 8 | 0.78 |
| 22. | Influenza. | 1 | - | 1 | 0.10 |
| 24. | Bronchitis. | 5 | - | 5 | 0.49 |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system. | 1 | - | 1 | 0.10 |
| 26. | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum. | 2 | - | 2 | 0.19 |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0.19 |
| 28. | Nephritis and Nephrosis. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0.19 |
| 31. | Congenital malformations. | - | 1 | 1 | 0.10 |
| 32. | Other defined and ill defined diseases. | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0.39 |
| 33. | Motor vehicle accidents. | - | 1 | 1 | 0.10 |
| 34. | All other accidents. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0.19 |
| 35. | Suicide. | - | 1 | 1 | 0.10 |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| All Causes | | 48 | 40 | 88 | 8.60 |
| <hr/> | | | | | |

Tuberculosis

No deaths were caused by tuberculosis. The death rate for England and Wales from this cause is 0.146 per 1000 population.

Deaths due to Acute Notifiable Disease

There were no deaths attributed to acute notifiable disease.

Infant Mortality

Three deaths of children under the age of one year occurred; the infant mortality rate is therefore 20.1 per 1000 live births. This rate for England and Wales for 1955 is 24.9 per 1000 live births.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital, Hereford, continued to provide facilities for examination of clinical and public health specimens. The following table shows the examinations made by the Laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----|----|
| Sputum | ... | 5 |
| Swabs | ... | 1 |
| Faeces | ... | 5 |
| Milk (Biological) | ... | 11 |
| Milk (Methylene Blue Test) | ... | 18 |
| Milk (Phosphatase Test) | ... | 16 |
| Ice Cream | ... | 5 |
| Water (Bacteriological) | ... | 96 |

In addition, 11 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance facilities are provided from the towns of Ledbury, Malvern and Hereford.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals within the Rural District, but the needs of the District are met by facilities provided in the general hospitals in Ledbury, Malvern, Hereford and Gloucester.

Accommodation for the treatment of infectious disease is provided at Stretton Sugwas Hospital, Hereford, whilst some notifiable disease is treated at the County Hospital, Hereford.

Clinics

An Infant Welfare Centre is held every fortnight in the parish of Colwall by a voluntary committee, with assistance from the Herefordshire County Council. A similar clinic, held at the Church Room Ledbury, is available to the inhabitants of the Rural District.

Disposal of the Dead - National Assistance Act 1948, Section 50

One burial was carried out by the Local Authority under this section during the year.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47

One investigation was made under this section during the year; no formal action was required by the Council.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology

The Ledbury Rural District forms the south eastern sector of the County of Hereford. The western boundary is formed by a ridge of upper silurian limestone in the Woolhope and Much Marcle area, whilst the eastern boundary is formed by the Malvern Hills in Colwall and Eastnor. The geological formation of the Malvern Hills is complex but on the Ledbury side, upper silurian rocks seem to predominate. The old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System prevails between the hills in the east and west. Whilst a number of springs occur in the Malverns, the area is not well supplied with natural sources of water.

Water Supplies

The water supplies of the area are derived from numerous separate sources; there are public wells and spouts, private wells, small privately owned piped schemes and mains of Local Authorities. The only supplies in the ownership of the Council are public wells and spouts and a small piped supply at Woolhope.

The quality of the water consumed by the inhabitants shows considerable variation according to the nature of the supply. The number of samples of water submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, for bacteriological examination was 96, and of these 32 showed the water not to be of good potable quality.

The water mains of the Malvern Urban District Council supply part of the parish of Colwall, whilst those of the Ledbury Urban District supply portions of the parishes of Eastnor, Ledbury Rural and Wellington Heath. These supplies are the only chlorinated supplies in the area. Two small privately owned piped supplies are also available in Colwall parish. Altogether in this parish 504 dwellings are supplied from mains by separate services.

There are other small piped schemes in operation in Eastnor (91 dwellings), Much Marcle (36 dwellings) and Tarrington (24 dwellings). The number of dwellings supplied from the mains of the Ledbury U.D.C. in Ledbury Rural parish is 28, and 23 dwellings in Eastnor parish, and 74 by services and 5 by standpipe in the parish of Wellington Heath.

During the year the construction of the Wellington Heath Water Scheme was completed. This scheme uses a bulk supply of water from the mains of the Ledbury Urban District Council. A reservoir of 30,000 gallons capacity is provided.

The number of wells cleaned out to abate contamination was 17. There was no evidence that any water used in the Rural District for potable purposes had any significant action upon metals.

During the year no part of the Rural District experienced shortage of water.

Drainage and Sewerage

The parish of Colwall is provided with a system of public sewers, and the new sewage disposal works provided a satisfactory effluent at all times.

Six samples of effluent and two of river water were submitted to the Public Analysts for examination.

There is a short length of public sewer in Bosbury parish which receives the drainage of a small number of dwellings.

During the year 6 defective drains were repaired and reconstructed. The number of drain test inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors was 71. The number of new drains provided was 53 and of these 48 were in connection with dwelling houses. No extensions to public sewers were carried out during the year.

Rivers and Streams

The chief rivers flowing through the District are the Leadon, the Frome and Cradley Brook. The Leadon, the largest stream in the area is a tributary of the river Severn. The Leadon showed evidence of pollution at times.

Closet Accommodation

It is estimated that one third of all the dwelling houses in the Rural District are provided with water closets, about half use pail closets and the remainder use privies. In Colwall parish, with an adequate piped water supply, the proportion of water closets in use is about 91%.

Every effort to secure closet conversion is made, and during the year 4 privies were converted to water closets, 12 pail closets were converted to water closets and 1 privy was converted to a pail closet. In addition, 67 new water closets were provided.

Public Cleansing

Towards the end of the year, the Council commenced a regular system of domestic refuse collection. This provides for the collection of domestic refuse weekly in Colwall parish and fortnightly in other parishes. The refuse disposal is by tipping. About 80% of occupied dwellings receive the benefit of this service.

The Council does not undertake the collection of trade refuse, or the cleansing or emptying of cesspools and privies, other than those on its own property. The Council does not carry out street cleansing.

There are no public washhouses or baths situated within the District.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the following statement furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Inspections

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Accumulations | ... | 30 |
| Animals | ... | 1 |
| Ashbins and Ashpits | ... | 43 |
| Bakehouses | ... | 8 |
| Camping Sites | ... | 2 |
| Caravans | ... | 5 |
| Dairies | ... | 3 |
| Drainage | ... | 69 |
| Drain Tests | ... | 70 |
| Factories (without mechanical power) | ... | 2 |
| Factories (with mechanical power) | ... | 10 |
| Food Poisoning | ... | 1 |
| Food Handling Byelaws | ... | 11 |
| Food Premises | ... | 6 |
| Fruit and Hop Pickers' Quarters | ... | 100 |
| Houses (Consolidated Regulations 1925) | ... | 159 |
| Housing (Other) | ... | 303 |
| Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens | ... | 3 |
| Ice Cream (Registered Premises) | ... | 5 |
| Infectious Disease | ... | 37 |
| Licensed Victuallers' Premises | ... | 1 |
| Public Conveniences | ... | 1 |
| Petroleum Stores | ... | 7 |
| Diseases of Animals Acts (Anthrax Order 1938) | ... | 1 |
| Schools | ... | 8 |
| Sewage Disposal Works | ... | 113 |
| Sewers | ... | 9 |
| Sanitary Conveniences | ... | 6 |
| Slaughterhouses | ... | 6 |
| Swimming Baths and Pools | ... | 4 |
| Unsound Food | ... | 5 |
| Water Supply | ... | 227 |
| Water Courses | ... | 5 |
| Work Places | ... | 1 |

Notices Issued

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----|----|
| Informal | ... | 53 |
| Statutory re housing | ... | - |
| Statutory under other Acts | ... | 7 |

Summary of Defects Remedied

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed | ... | 3 |
| Ditches cleared | ... | 3 |
| Domestic baths provided | ... | 11 |
| Drains and Gullies cleared | ... | 4 |
| Drains repaired | ... | 1 |
| Drains reconstructed | ... | 6 |
| New drains provided | ... | 11 |
| Defective floors repaired | ... | 4 |
| Defective roofs repaired | ... | 6 |
| Defective eaves gutters repaired | ... | 1 |
| Defective brickwork repaired | ... | 4 |

Summary of Defects Remedied (continued)

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Disinfections after infectious disease | ... | 1 |
| Defective windows repaired | ... | 2 |
| Defective chimneys repaired | ... | 1 |
| Dampness of floors and walls remedied | ... | 1 |
| Cisterns cleansed or repaired | ... | 7 |
| Dairies reconstructed | ... | 1 |
| New Gullies provided | ... | 12 |
| Old drains sealed | ... | 1 |
| Paving repaired | ... | 1 |
| Privies converted to water closets | ... | 1 |
| New sinks provided | ... | 3 |
| Sanitary Fittings provided | ... | 16 |
| Moveable dwellings removed | ... | 2 |
| New Urinals provided | ... | 1 |
| Ventilation improved | ... | 1 |
| Walls cleansed or repaired | ... | 17 |
| Water Supplies provided | ... | 3 |
| Miscellaneous Defects remedied | ... | 4 |

Swimming Baths and Pools

There were three swimming pools open to the public within the District during the year. All are equipped with circulation and filtration apparatus.

Four samples of swimming pool water were submitted for bacteriological examination and were found to be sterile.

Hop and Fruit Pickers' Quarters

As the cultivation of hops is an important agricultural activity of the area, it is customary for numbers of hop pickers to move into the area at the beginning of September. A significant number of pickers provided their own accommodation by means of caravan or tent; for others accommodation is provided by growers.

These lodgings are controlled by the Rural District Council's Byelaws. Lodgings were provided on 71 different premises. These lodgings showed a considerable variation in size and nature. The standard of accommodation provided showed some improvement on that of the previous year.

In 1955 there was a considerable shortage of labour for picking. The use of machinery for stripping is increasing.

The number of inspections of hop pickers' quarters made under the Byelaws was 100.

Camping Sites. Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269

No licences for camping sites were granted by the Council under this section. Camping within the area is limited and it presents no major health problems. Eastnor Park is used as a camping ground during the summer months by members of bodies exempt under subsection 6 of this section. The maximum number of campers at any time during the year is estimated not to exceed 100. Only one site was used for camping during the year.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs

No dwelling house within the District was found to be infested with bed-bugs and no action was required by the Department.

Shops and Offices

No formal action was necessary by the Department during the year in connection with these premises.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

At the end of the year there were four factories without mechanical power, and twentyone with mechanical power, registered with the Local Authority.

There are no outworkers registered with the Local Authority at the present time.

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1955, for the Rural District of Ledbury in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

| Premises. | Number on Register. | Inspect- ions. | Written Notices. | Occupiers Prosecuted. |
|---|---------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities. | 4 | 2 | - | - |
| Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. | 21 | 10 | 1 | - |
| Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (except outworkers' premises). | 14 | 14 | 2 | - |
| Total | 39 | 26 | 1 | - |

2. Cases in which defects were found

| Particulars. | Number of cases in which defects were found | Number of cases in which | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Found. | Remedied. | Referred. | prosecutions |
| | | | to H.M. | by H.M. |
| Sanitary Conveniences. | | | Inspect- | instituted. |
| Unsuitable or defective. | 1 | 1 | or | or. |

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council employs a Pest Officer jointly with the Hereford Rural District Council and the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District Council. The following is a summary of the work carried out under the Act.

| | Premises inspect- ed. | Total Infest- ations. | Rats Major | Rats Minor | Mice | No. of prop- erties | Stat- utory Notices. |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Local Authorities' Properties. | 17 | 10 | 1 | 9 | - | 10 | - |
| Dwelling Houses | 70 | 32 | - | 31 | 1 | - | - |
| Agricultural Properties. | 90 | 42 | 2 | 40 | - | - | - |
| All other (including business) premises. | 10 | 4 | - | 4 | - | - | - |
| Total | 187 | 88 | 3 | 84 | 1 | 10 | - |

SECTION D - HOUSINGNew Dwellings

During the year 43 Council houses were completed, and private persons completed the erection of 11 dwelling houses whilst 14 were in course of erection at the end of the year.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

| | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts): | ... 159 |
| 2. | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | ... 2 |
| 3. | Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | ... 33 |

Houses demolished or closed during the Year

| | | |
|-----|--|---------|
| 1. | Housing Act 1936 | |
| (a) | Demolished as a result of informal procedure (Section 11) | ... Nil |
| (b) | Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force. | ... Nil |
| (c) | Parts of building closed (Section 12) | ... Nil |
| 2. | Housing Act 1949 | |
| | Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 3(1) and 3(2) | ... Nil |
| 3. | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. | |
| | Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10(1) and 11(2) | ... Nil |

Houses repaired during the Year

| | | |
|-----|--|---------|
| 1. | Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts. | ... 25 |
| 2. | Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice: | |
| | Houses in which defects were remedied | |
| (a) | By Owners | ... 1 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of Owners | ... Nil |
| 3. | Housing Act 1936 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9,10,11 and 16): | |
| | Houses made fit | |
| (a) | By Owners | ... Nil |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of Owners | ... Nil |

Houses repaired during the Year (continued)

| | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| 4. Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954. Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) | ... | Nil |
|--|-----|-----|

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

| | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | 9 |
| (b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ... | 5 |
| (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | 6 |
| (d) Dwelling houses which have again become overcrowded after steps by the Local Authority for abatement | ... | Nil |

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Section 20 (a) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by conversion of buildings | ... | Nil |
| (b) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings | ... | 11 |

Overcrowding - Housing Act 1936 - Part IV

At the beginning of the year 10 dwellings were recorded as legally overcrowded within the meaning of Section 58 of the Housing Act, 1936.

During the year 5 new cases were found, but it was possible to relieve 6 cases, so that the position at the end of the year showed a small improvement.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

At the end of the year 11 distributors were registered with the Council. There are no plants for pasteurisation of milk or factories for processing of milk within the area. Fifteen licences were issued by the Council for the sale of tuberculin tested milk and 16 for the sale of pasteurised milk. One licence was issued for the sale of sterilised milk. The number of dairy inspections made was 3.

Twelve samples of milk were sent for biological examination and 2 samples were found to be infected with Brucellosis. Two notices were served under article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 requiring milk to be pasteurised before being sold for human consumption.

Eighteen samples of tuberculin tested milk were submitted for examination, and 7 of these failed to comply with the test. Seventeen samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for examination and were found to be satisfactory.

Ice Cream - Food and Drugs Act 1938, Sections 14 and 16

Thirteen premises were registered with the Local Authority for the storage and sale of ice cream, and one registered for the manufacture of ice cream. No action was necessary by the Department in connection with any of these premises. The number of inspections made during the year was five. The manufacturer registered uses a complete cold mix. Six samples of ice cream submitted for bacteriological examination were satisfactory.

Water Cress

No action was necessary by the Department during the year in connection with this food. The sale of water cress would appear to be small as it grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the area.

Shell Fish

The sale of shell fish within the District is very small and no action was required during the year.

Slaughterhouses

Two slaughterhouses were licensed by the Council.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 and Slaughter of Animals Amendment Act, 1954

Two slaughterman's licences were issued for the slaughter of cattle, sheep and pigs and one for the slaughter of horses only.

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned
in whole or in part

| | Cattle excluding Cows. | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|---|------------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|--------|
| Number killed (if known) | 74 | | 1 | 509 | 56 | - |
| Number inspected | 71 | | 1 | 484 | 54 | - |
| <u>All diseases except</u> | | | | | | |
| <u>Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u> | | | | | | |
| Whole Carcases | - | - | - | 3 | - | - |
| Condemned | | | | | | |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | | 8 | - | 9 | 1 | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci | | 11.2 | - | 1.8 | 1.8 | - |
| <u>Tuberculosis only:</u> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | | 1 | - | - | 4 | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | | 1.4 | - | - | 7.4 | - |
| <u>Cysticerosis</u> | | | | | | |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Generalised and totally condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Unsound Food

The following table shows the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

| <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Food</u> | <u>Cause of unsoundness</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 parts | Ox Livers | Fluke. |
| 6 | Sheep Livers | " |
| 1 | Ox Liver | Abscesses. |
| 1 | Ox head | Tuberculosis. |
| 1 | Ox head | Actinomycosis. |
| 1 part shoulder | Mutton | Abscess. |
| 1 part leg | Mutton | " |
| 4 | Pig heads | Tuberculosis. |
| 1 part | Ox Liver | Cirrhosis. |
| 1 | Ox lungs | Abscesses. |
| 3 carcases | Lamb | Trauma. |
| 75 lbs | Beef | Bone taint. |
| 1 | Pig Liver. | Necrosis. |
| 4 lbs. | Leg of lamb. | Trauma. |
| 2 x 6 lbs. tins | Ox tongue. | Damage and decomposition |
| 14 lbs. | Pork Sausages | Flyblown. |

All unsound food is dealt with by burying or burning at the refuse tip.

Situated within the area are two jam factories, two fruit and vegetable canning factories, two soft drink factories and a factory for the manufacture of cider and perry. The number of inspections of premises registered with the Local Authority was 19. Conditions were found to be satisfactory at these premises.

Byelaws as to Handling, etc. of Food

No contravention of these Byelaws was found at any time during the year. There are no food markets held within the Rural District, but the Byelaws have secured an improvement in the handling and wrapping of food.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning occurred during the year.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The unusually low prevalence of acute notifiable disease experienced during 1954 was not maintained as 132 notifications were received in 1955. The greater part of the notifications were received during the second and third quarters of the year; the increased prevalence of measles accounted for most of the increase.

Measles

The incidence of this disease steadily increased as the year advanced and then almost disappeared at the end of the third quarter. Altogether 110 notifications were received giving an incidence rate of 11.5 per 1000 estimated population. The age group showing the maximum incidence was the 5 - 10 years group (46 cases). Colwall Parish, with the largest population, experienced 49 cases. The incidence was slightly higher in females (55 cases) and there were no deaths.

Acute Encephalitis

Two cases of acute infective encephalitis were notified; both patients were children under school age and were admitted to hospital. The incidence rate was 0.23 per 1000 estimated population.

Acute Poliomyelitis

The incidence pf poliomyelitis was higher than in the previous year, three cases of the paralytic form and one of the non-paralytic form were notified. The incidence rate was 0.46 per 1000 estimated population. All patients were over 16 years of age and were treated in hospital. Two cases occurred in the same house. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.

This disease remained endemic throughout the year, with a slight increased prevalence during the third quarter. The number of notifications received was 17 and the incidence rate was 1.95 per 1000 estimated population. The age of maximum incidence was the younger school age child. There were 12 cases in males compared with 5 in females. The disease was mild and there were no deaths.

Dysentery

Five cases of dysentery were notified, all were of Sonne type. The incidence rate was 0.57 per 1000 estimated population.

Other Acute Notifiable Diseases

Two cases of erysipelas, one of pneumonia and one of scarlet fever were received during the year. The District was entirely free from diphtheria, meningococcal infection and enteric fevers throughout the year. The efficiency of notification is satisfactory.

Confirmed cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter

| Disease. | 1st Quarter. | 2nd Quarter. | 3rd Quarter. | 4th Quarter. | Year. |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Scarlet Fever | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Measles. | 5 | 20 | 74 | 1 | 100 |
| Dysentery. | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Acute Encephalitis (Infective) | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic). | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Poliomyelitis (paralytic). | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Whooping Cough. | 4 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 17 |
| Pneumonia. | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Erysipelas. | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| All Diseases | 9 | 24 | 89 | 10 | 132 |

Analysis of notified cases according
to certain Age Groups

| Disease | 0+ | 1+ | 3+ | 5+ | 10+ | 15+ | 20+ | 35+ | 45+ | 65+ |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Scarlet Fever | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Measles | - | 17 | 21 | 46 | 13 | - | 1 | 2 | - | - |
| Dysentery | - | 3 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 3 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Acute Encephalitis (Infective) | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic) | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Poliomyelitis (paralytic) | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Total | 3 | 22 | 23 | 57 | 16 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 75 cases of tuberculosis on the Register (59 respiratory and 16 non-respiratory). During the year 8 cases (6 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory) were added. Of these, 5 cases were new infections. The number of cases removed from the Register during the year was 5 (4 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory). At the end of the year, therefore, 78 cases remained on the Register (61 respiratory and 17 non-respiratory).

New Cases and Mortality during Year 1955

| Age Periods. | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---|------------------|---|--------------|---|------------------|---|
| | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0+ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1+ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5+ | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 15+ | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25+ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35+ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45+ | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65+ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |

No deaths were attributed to tuberculosis.

